

865d.014

## DOCUMENT FILE

### NOTE

SEE 865d.01/196 FOR #47

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED Oct. 22, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ..

REGARDING: Division of territory of the Government of Eritrea  
into eleven Regional Commissariats and one Autonomous  
Residency. Announcement of-

mb

865D.014/1

GOODYEAR

THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER EXPORT COMPANY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CABLE ADDRESS  
GOODYEAR—AKRON  
ALL CODES USED

AKRON, OHIO, U. S. A.

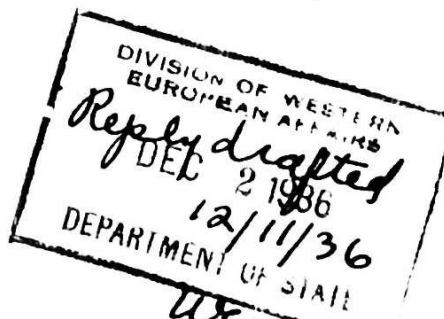
1936 DEC 2 AM 9 46

BB285

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

November 30, 1936.

Department of State  
Washington D C



Gentlemen: Italian Colonies

1. Please be kind enough to advise us as to the political status of the Italian Colonies in Africa.
2. We refer in particular to the Colonies in East Africa, namely, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia. Are these three colonies separate and distinct one from the other, or have they been merged into one territory?
3. Also please advise what are the correct names of these territories.
4. Any additional information which you can give us regarding these territories would be very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER EXPORT COMPANY

*P. A. Bryan*  
Eastern Division

P A Bryan  
R C

FILED

DEC 10 1936

865D.01472

GH

2  
December 15 1936

In reply refer to  
WE 865 D.014/2

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Export Company,  
Akron, Ohio.

Sirs:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 30, 1936, in which you request information as to the political status of the Italian colonies in Africa, with particular reference to the colonies in East Africa.

As pertinent to your inquiry, there is quoted below in translation Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Section 1 of Royal Decree-Law No. 1019 of June 1, 1936, of the Italian Government, entitled "The Organization and Administration of Italian East Africa".

"Article 1:

The territories of the Ethiopian Empire, of Eritrea and of Somalia constitute Italian East Africa.

It has a juridical personality and is governed and represented - in the name of the King Emperor - by a Governor General, who has the title of Viceroy of Ethiopia.

The Government General of Italian East Africa has its headquarters at Addis Ababa.

"Article 2:

865D.014/2

GMB

**"Article 3:**

The Ethiopian Empire is composed:  
of the Government of Amhara, with its capital at Gondar;  
of the Government of Galla and Sidama, with its capital at Jimma;  
of the Government of Harar, with its capital at Harar;  
of the Governorship of Addis Ababa, which is organized into a municipal administration, governed by a Governor under the direct dependence of the Government General.

Each Government and the Governorship of Addis Ababa has juridical personality.

**"Article 4:**

The territory of the Tigrai between the line Mareb-Belesa-Muna and the line Tacazze-Tsellari-Lake Ascianghi, and that of the Danakil from the lowland east of Lake Ascianghi to the southern limit of the Aussa form part of Eritrea and are placed under the jurisdiction of that Government.

The territory inhabited by the Ogaden Somalia populations between the frontier of British Somalia and the Dacata river, the Uebi Gestro and the Ganale Doria forms part of Italian Somalia and is placed under the jurisdiction of that Government.

The Government of Eritrea and the Government of Somalia have juridical personality."

The Royal Decree-Law referred to above was published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Government, dated June 13, 1936, No. 36.

Very truly yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

James Clement Dunn,  
Chief, Division of Western  
European Affairs.

✓  
A/A  
12/15/36  
WE:HHT:MLD  
12-14-36



THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY  
RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLISHERS  
PHILADELPHIA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

1937 FEB 11 AM 9 54

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We publish geography and history textbooks for use in the United States containing maps of practically every country in the world and their possessions.

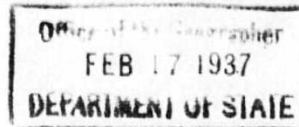
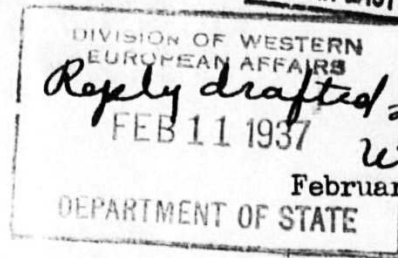
The question of Ethiopia is now before us as we prepare the map plates for a new edition. We are advised by the Italian ambassador that Ethiopia is to be shown as Italian territory. He states further that this policy has been recognized by several nations and is already appearing on maps in this country and in other countries.

We should like to have the advice of the Department of State on the advisability of showing this area as Italian territory. You understand, of course, that any statement you may make to us will be absolutely confidential and go no further.

Very truly yours,

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY

William B. Nichols



February 17 1937

FILED  
FEB 18 1937

865D.014/3

GMB

February 17 1937

In reply refer to  
WE 865 D.014/3

Mr. William B. Nichols,  
Editorial Department,  
The John G. Winston Company,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated  
February 10, 1937, in which you ask the opinion of  
the Department of State on the advisability of showing  
the Ethiopian Empire as Italian territory in connection  
with the publication of geography and history text-  
books for use in the United States.

The Department regrets that it is not in position  
to offer any advice or to make any statement in connection  
with this matter.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

James Clement Dunn,  
Chief, Division of Western  
European Affairs.

FEB 16 1937 PM  
FEB 17 1937

WE:HHT:MLD  
2-12-37

2/13/37

NE full

TRP  
a.w.s.

70  
a-m  
Run  
1/2  
SwB

365D.014/3

GH

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 862.014/ 325 FOR Despatch #208

FROM Milan ( Sholes ) DATED Feb. 11, 1938

TO

NAME

1-1127

o p o

### REGARDING:

German and Italian activity in East Africa. Persistent reports of German negotiations with Italian authorities for the exploitation of certain areas of timber near Port Durnford, Djubaland.

fp

865D.014/4



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

August 9, 1938

NE  
Mr. Murray

Mr. Welles has asked me to express my opinion on this matter. I agree with your Division that the use of the phrase "Italian East Africa" for statistical purposes would not imply in any sense recognition of Italian sovereignty. I should prefer, however, to keep the words "Italian East Africa" in quotation marks.

*P.M.*

Pierrepont Moffat

*H.H.T.*

Eu:PM:ASD





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

August 5

WSM:

It does not seem to me that the question of recognition necessarily enters into the problem raised here by the Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce. I should think that designation of an area as "Italian East Africa" for statistical purposes could be accepted on our part without in any way implying that we concede Italian sovereignty over the whole of that area, particularly as it includes territory which we have long admitted to be Italian.

In the case of "Manchukuo", you recall, we always put the word in quotes. If we desired to be ultra-cautious about the matter, we might consider adopting the same course in respect to "Italian East Africa."

Similarly, I see no objection to the issuance of a circular containing information on the area in question, though I wonder where all the interest comes from that prompts the Bureau to get out such a publication.

HSV

HSV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

NE  
I should be glad  
to have your views  
on this. I will

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

INFORMAL

1938 AUG 2 AM 10:30, 1938.

Hon. George S. Messersmith, DIVISION OF  
Assistant Secretary of State, COMMUNICATIONS  
Department of State AND RECORDS  
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AUG 5 1938  
DIVISION OF  
IN REPLY REFER TO 23

Attention A-M/C

*Memorandum to  
Commerce  
replied in A-M/C  
Grove*

865D.014/5

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

In several of the publications of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a difficulty has arisen in connection with data covering Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia, the area called "Italian East Africa" in Italian official publications.

Statistics available cover the area as a whole in many instances, so that it is not possible to segregate "Ethiopia" from the remainder of the territory. However, as Ethiopia has not been recognized by this Government as Italian territory, the Bureau wishes to be informed by the Department of State as to what designation to use for the entire area.

Interest in "Italian East Africa" has prompted the Bureau to assemble material suitable for issue as a mimeographed descriptive circular. Would it be permissible for the Bureau to release such a circular, and, if so, what name should be used to describe the territory?

Very truly yours,

*H. Lawrence Groves*  
H. Lawrence Groves,  
Chief, Foreign Commerce Service.

SEP 14 1938

FILED

INFORMAL

July 30, 1938.

Hon. George S. Messersmith,  
Assistant Secretary of State,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D.C.

23

Attention A-M/C

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

In several of the publications of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a difficulty has arisen in connection with data covering Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia, the area called "Italian East Africa" in Italian official publications.

Statistics available cover the area as a whole in many instances, so that it is not possible to segregate "Ethiopia" from the remainder of the territory. However, as Ethiopia has not been recognized by this Government as Italian territory, the Bureau wishes to be informed by the Department of State as to what designation to use for the entire area.

Interest in "Italian East Africa" has prompted the Bureau to assemble material suitable for issue as a mimeographed descriptive circular. Would it be permissible for the Bureau to release such a circular, and, if so, what name should be used to describe the territory?

Very truly yours,

H. Lawrence Groves,  
Chief, Foreign Commerce Service.

PMC-yp

A-M/C

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

August 27, 1938

NE

Mr. Villard:

Eu understood that Le's criticism of the memorandum of August 11, 1938 to Commerce as drafted was that the use of quotation marks with the words Italian East Africa might irritate the Italians unnecessarily in that no question of recognition would be raised by leaving the quotation marks out. The present draft attached to your memorandum of August 25, 1938 would seem to increase rather than decrease the risk of irritating the Italians unnecessarily and thus would seem to run counter to Le's original intention.

Would it not answer all purposes to modify Le's suggestion attached to your memorandum of August 25, 1938 as follows:

"The Department perceives no objection to the use of the designation Italian East Africa exclusively for statistical purposes but suggests that if it is so used it be accompanied by an explanatory footnote to the effect that the designation and figures are taken from Italian official publications."

Eu:Hamlin:LF

OK HHD PH [Signature]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Aug. 23

EU

Mr. Hamlin:

In response to your request, I took this matter up with Mr. Ward of Lc, and he suggests the attached draft as a reply to Commerce. I understand that this phraseology has been approved by Mr. Hackworth.

H3V

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE LEGAL ADVISER

NE

W. V. Perkins



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

---

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

August 13, 1938

P.M.

Mr. Villard in NE telephoned that he talked to Mr. Ward in Le about the use of quotation marks, and the latter expressed the personal opinion that such use might unnecessarily call attention to the matter and irritate the Italians, while leaving them off would not involve the question of recognition. I shared Ann's. LE's opinion in a matter like this should bear some weight.

Eu:Tittmann:LF

OK/PM H.H.T.

29CR

September 8, 1938

MEMORANDUM TO THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

The Commercial Office of the Department of State refers to the Bureau's letter dated July 30, 1938, requesting the name which should be used to describe the territory embraced in Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia, which has been designated Italian East Africa in Italian official publications.

The Department perceives no objection to the use of the designation Italian East Africa exclusively for statistical purposes but suggests that if it is so used it be accompanied by an explanatory footnote to the effect that the designation and figures are taken from Italian official publications.

865D.014/5

✓  
OK  
P 10 1938.

A-M/C:GHK:LR  
9/8/38

NE  
EL  
LE  
PM

LE  
RA

gony  
A-M



117



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1938

MEMORANDUM TO THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

The Commercial Office of the Department of State refers to the Bureau's letter dated July 30, 1938, requesting the name which should be used to describe the territory embraced in Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia, which has been designated "Italian East Africa" in Italian official publications. The Department perceives no objection to the use of the phrase "Italian East Africa" for statistical purposes, and is of the opinion that the phrase should only be used within quotation marks.)

*WHP*  
*Reut*

August 11, 1938

MEMORANDUM TO THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

The Commercial Office of the Department of State refers to the Bureau's letter dated July 30, 1938, requesting the name which should be used to describe the territory embraced in Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia, which has been designated "Italian East Africa" in Italian official publications. The Department perceives no objection to the use of the phrase "Italian East Africa" for statistical purposes, and is of the opinion that the phrase should only be used within quotation marks.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
A-M/C:GHK:EE  
8-11

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Ne

Eu

*[Handwritten signature]*  
#5V

[DRAFT]

Suggested in Lieu of Last Sentence of Attached Draft

The Department perceives no objection to the use of the designation Italian East Africa exclusively for statistical purposes but suggests that if it is so used it be accompanied by an explanatory note to the effect that the designation is taken from Italian official publications; that it is used by the Department of Commerce solely for the purpose of supplying statistical information in the form contained in Italian official publications and ~~as so used~~ that the use of the term by the Department of Commerce has no legal or political significance.

Room 332  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

March 20, 1939

N.E.

Mr. Willard:

Letter of July 30, 1938 from Commerce Department and the Department's reply of September 8, 1938 concerning the use of the term "Italian East Africa" are charged to N.E. (Mr. Willard), January 26, 1939. (File: 865d.014/5 )

lec

R.599

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*  
(telephone)

RECEIVED  
3

LEGAL ADVISER

OCT 12 1938

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATE: September 27, 1938.

1938 OCT 13 AM 10 48

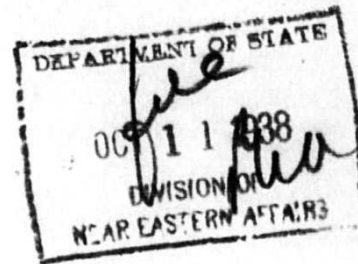
SUBJECT: Addressing of Mail to Ethiopia.

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Webber  
of Post Office Department.

Mr. Villard

COPIES TO:



865 D. 014/6

Mr. Webber, an official of the Post Office Department, informally inquired by telephone today whether we could make any suggestions in regard to the addressing of mail to Ethiopia. He observed that, as we knew, Ethiopia was now included by the Italian authorities under the designation "Italian East Africa," the capital of which is Asmara, in the territory formerly known as Eritrea. The question had now arisen whether mail addressed to Addis Ababa should carry the designation "Italian East Africa", or whether such an act on the part of the Post Office would constitute recognition of Italian sovereignty over that area.

Mr. Webber said that the matter had come up in connection with a printed form supplied by the Post Office Department



Department to trace missing or delayed mail. Complaints that addressees had not received certain articles known to have been sent from the United States, such as registered letters, parcels, et cetera, were filled out on this form. I asked Mr. Webber whether many such complaints had been received in the case of mail addressed to Addis Ababa, to which he replied that he had not gone into this subject fully with the Inspector in charge, but that he assumed that some such situation had given rise to the present query. He added that he would investigate this point further and let us know.

I said that I would take up the matter with the appropriate officials of this Department and that as soon as an opinion had been reached I would call him on the telephone. Mr. Webber made it clear that his inquiry was a purely informal one, but that if it were found that mail addressed to "Ethiopia" was being delayed or lost en route, the subject would be brought formally to our attention.

HSV  
NE:HSV/GC

CME

3  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS  
1938 OCT 13 AM 10 48  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OCT 11 1938  
LEGAL ADVISER  
OCT 12 1938  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
October 11, 1938.

PHA:

DIVISION  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Mr. Webber of the Post Office Department telephoned again today and, in response to my inquiry, Mr. Hamlin brought over the attached memorandum setting forth the views of Eu in regard to the question of mail addressed to Addis Ababa.

I telephoned the substance of this memorandum to Mr. Webber and said that if the Post Office Department could furnish any concrete illustrations of mail being delayed or failing to reach its destination when addressed to "Ethiopia", this Department would be glad to give the matter further study. I said that otherwise we saw no reason to substitute "Italian East Africa" for the territory known as "Ethiopia".

Mr. Webber thanked me and said he would communicate with us further if the inspector in charge should furnish him with any instances in which mail addressed to "Ethiopia" had been subject to delays or losses at the hands of the Italian authorities.

U2V  
NE H.S. VILLARD/EG

8650.014/7

FILED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OCT 11 1938  
DIVISION OF  
EASTERN AFFAIRS  
LEGAL ADVISER  
OCT 12 1938  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

October 11, 1938

1938 OCT 13 AM 10 48  
MEMORANDUM

ME  
It is stated that Mr. Webber of the Post Office

Department has informally raised the question whether mail addressed to Addis Ababa should carry the designation "Italian East Africa" or whether such an act on the part of the Post Office Department would constitute recognition of Italian sovereignty over that territory.

It would appear desirable not to bring up the question of recognition, even by implication, and in fact, it does not seem necessary to do so at this time in the manner indicated.

It is my understanding that by Italian fundamental law of June 1, 1936 Italian East Africa comprises the territories of the Empire of Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Italian Somalia, and that each territory has a juridical status. The Empire of Ethiopia, by the same law, in turn, comprises the (1) Government of Amara, (2) Government of Galla and Sidama, (3) Government of Harar, and (4) Government of Addis Ababa, the latter having been expanded and renamed Government of Scioia on September 1, 1938. A map of Italian East Africa published in 1937 by the Istituto Geografico de Agostini shows the Empire of

Ethiopia

8650.014/8

FILED

OCT 18 1938

Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Italian Somalia.

It would appear to be sufficient for mail for Addis Ababa and other towns in Ethiopia to carry the designation "Ethiopia" with no reference to "Italian East Africa".

Incidentally, I find no record of the change of the capital of Italian East Africa from Addis Ababa to Asmara, or that Eritrea has lost its identity, as indicated by Mr. Webber.

865D.01/513

*WWS*

Eu:Hamlin:LF

*gna.*

Central File: Decimal File 865D.014, Internal Affairs Of States, Government. Mandates, Recognition., Italian East Africa, Territory. Maps, Oct. 22, 1936 - Oct. 11, 1938. October 22, 1936 - October 11, 1938. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109730766/FGDSC?Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109730766/FGDSC?Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC). Accessed 18 June 2025.